



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Tsukasa Kobayashi, et al. **Examiner:** Unassigned  
**Serial No:** 10/091,894 **Art Unit:** 3732  
**Filed:** March 6, 2002 **Docket:** 15344  
**For:** APPARATUS FOR LIGATING  
LIVING TISSUES **Dated:** April 5, 2004  
**Conf. No.:** 6289

Mail Stop DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

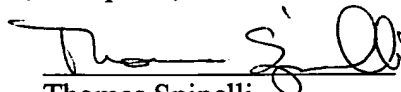
1. German Patent Application No. DE 102 03 956 A1, dated September 26, 2002;
2. German Patent Application No. 26 04 024, dated August 5, 1976; and
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,242,456, dated September 7, 1993, issued to Nash et al.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop DD, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 11450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 5, 2004.

Dated: April 5, 2004

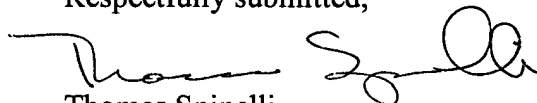
  
Thomas Spinelli

The references were cited in an Office Action dated January 29, 2004 received from the German Patent Office. Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Office Action and an English translation thereof. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the Office Action.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of the official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

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*Imape*

3732

<b>TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> (Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))			Docket No. 15344	
In Re Application Of: Tsukasa Kobayashi, et al.				
Serial No. 10/091,894		Filing Date March 6, 2002		Examiner Unassigned
				Group Art Unit 3732
Title: APPARATUS FOR LIGATING LIVING TISSUES				
<p>Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p><b>37 CFR 1.97(b)</b></p> <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.</p> <p><b>37 CFR 1.97(c)</b></p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).</p>				

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(p))

Docket No.

15344

In Re Application: Tsukasa Kobayashi, et al.



Serial No.

10/091,894

Filing Date

March 6, 2002

Examiner

Unassigned

Group Art Unit

3732

**APPARATUS FOR LIGATING LIVING TISSUES****Payment of Fee**

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **19-1013/SSMP** as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
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I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on 4/5/2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
_____ Thomas Spinelli	

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Dated: April 5, 2004

Thomas Spinelli

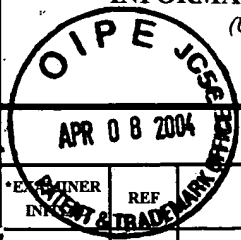
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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)



Docket Number (Optional)

15344

Application Number

10/091,894

Applicant(s)

Tsukasa Kobayashi, et al.

Filing Date

March 6, 2002

Group Art Unit

3732

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,242,456	9/7/1993	Nash et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		DE 102 03 956 A1	9/26/2002	Germany				
		26 04 024	8/5/1976	Germany				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.